

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
APRIL 3, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Chairperson  
Kristin Scharlau for Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe  
\*John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission  
Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center  
\*Suzanne Cohen, Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Councilmember William Conner, El Mirage  
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center  
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler  
\*Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House  
Terri Woodmansee for Councilmember Brenda Holland, Goodyear  
\*Dan Hughes, City of Surprise  
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Department, Vice Chair  
\* Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department  
\*Candace Johnson, Prehab of Arizona  
\* Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging  
\*Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter  
Kristen Kennedy for Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale  
Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women  
Betty Lynch, Representative for City of Avondale  
\*JoEllen Lynn, American Express

Jeremy Arp for Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office  
Stephanie Olohan for City of Goodyear  
\*Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation  
Katie Hobbs for Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center  
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa  
Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.  
\*Sandra Renteria, Phoenix Police Department  
Jennifer Dalton for Tina Solomon, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office  
Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hailey Campanella  
Chris Fike, Elim House  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Loren Kirkeide, SRP  
Kendra Leiby, AZCADV  
Patricia Madsen, Community Legal Service  
Mary Alice McKone, Elim House  
Kay Radwanski, AZ Supreme Court  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Renae Tenney, MAG  
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix

+ Those attending by video/audio conference  
\* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Humphrey, Phoenix Police Department, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the February 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Humphrey called for approval of the February 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Betty Lynch, representative from City of Avondale, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember William Conner, City of El Mirage, seconded the motion. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Presentation on Domestic Violence Survivor's Self-Representation Manual

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Patricia Madsen, Community Legal Services, who presented on the development of a self-representation manual to assist domestic violence survivor's in court proceedings. Ms. Madsen stated Community Legal Services provides free legal services in Arizona. There are agencies located in northern and southern Arizona with two offices in the Maricopa region, in Phoenix and Mesa, covering topics such as family law and hospital benefits. She said applicants are required to show financial need for services. She noted with 13.8 percent in Maricopa County below the poverty level, all would qualify for assistance. Ms. Madsen said there is an average of 45 applicants per week in both the Mesa and Phoenix office with the majority inquiring about family law assistance.

Ms. Madsen stated workshops are held by paralegals with the focus on protecting victims of domestic violence and providing resources. She noted few cases are represented by lawyers with most provided only legal assistance; 10-15 cases are in need of assistance every week. For applicants who do not qualify for services, seminars are provided with an advice session. She said there are a large number of cases with applicants who self represent. According to the American Bar Association Journal, 80 percent of those who come to family court do not have lawyers. Ms. Madsen said in 1990, 70 percent of the cases were self represented; this is a nation wide issue with the numbers increasing every year.

Ms. Madsen stated there are many reasons people self represent including not knowing where to go for help. She said there are many resources available such as the Maricopa County Self Service Center which is nationally recognized and provides forms and resources. Individual assistance is not available due to staffing. Fresh Start Resource Center provides workshops for legal assistance. The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) has a hotline with qualified personnel to offer information. She noted a majority of the hotline requests are for family law. AZCADV is working on a self help brochure which is in production now and will be translated into Spanish. The brochure covers several subjects such as preparing for court, talking to witnesses and issuing subpoenas. The brochure will offer the reader an overall view of the court process. Ms. Madsen said many victims have little information on court proceedings and how to prepare. The brochure will give a checklist on how to prepare for court including a resource and definition section.

Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center, inquired about other requirements besides income such as clients need to speak English or have citizenship. Ms. Madsen stated applicants need to be a citizen with documentation but the agency can assist with issues that directly pertain to domestic violence. Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said the Coalition will let people know when the brochure will be available. The brochure will be posted to the AZCADV web site.

5. Presentation on the Walk to End Domestic Violence

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Jodi Liggett, Arizona Foundation for Women, who presented plans for the 2008 Walk to End Domestic Violence. The Arizona Foundation for Women, Men's Anti-violence Network (MAN) and Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV) are supporting the Walk. Ms. Liggett began by giving an overview of the time of the events. The competitive 5K starts at 7:30 a.m. and the non-competitive 5K walk starts at 7:32 a.m. She stated media support will begin this week with Channel 12 airing spots for the walk and 99.9 KEZ beginning next week. Ms. Liggett stated there are 701 participants who have already registered. American Express will be hosting their volunteer kickoff and expect over 400 to register on their team. She stated this year's goal was to register 146 teams. Currently, 25 teams have registered with a majority of the 2007 teams returning. Ms. Liggett commented that many teams and participants register within a week of the event.

Ms. Liggett stated sponsors include the Arizona Coyotes, Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. She said more than \$9,000 has been generated from registration fees alone. The walk has already generated overall revenue equaling \$137,000. Walk participants are encouraged to raise \$110 each, which provides funding for two nights of safety in a shelter.

Ms. Liggett shared about several new features added to the Walk this year. The Safety Tonight Dining Program was added as another opportunity for people to contribute who may not be able to participate in the Walk. Through this program, local restaurants agree to donate a portion of their proceeds from a designated timeframe during the weekend of the Walk. Walk organizers are recruiting volunteers for cheering sections along the walk route. The Arizona Coyotes are sponsoring a Kids Zone with fun activities for children. A Kids Dash will be held after the 5K Walk with the sports team mascots cheering on the children.

Vice Chair Humphrey stated the Walk is a great event which keeps growing every year. He thanked Ms. Liggett and everyone involved for their hard work for a worthy cause.

6. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office, who provided an update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. Mr. Arp stated the commission is reorganizing and has a new executive order. He

announced First Lady Vicky Shirley of the Navajo Nation as the new chair. The commission is moving forward with orientations for committee members. The Commission will meet next month. Mr. Arp stated the Governor's Division for Women is awaiting the legislative budget to determine the amount of Innovative grant dollars available for community projects.

7. Update from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) who provided an update on Coalition activities and a legislative update on domestic violence related items. Ms. Bones stated the Coalition has four new board members: Jason Kvam, Steve Boeck, Richard Miers and Renae Tenney. The coalition is in the process of recruiting additional board members. Ms. Bones asked members interested in serving on the board to please call ACADV. She said she is also working to increase memberships to the Coalition. Ms. Bones stated they are planning to increase communications through a monthly newsletter. The first one will be sent out by the end of the month.

Ms. Bones shared information about the Coalition's activities during Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week in February. The Coalition has a committee that coordinated five school fairs reaching out to more than 1,300 teens about dating violence. She said the Coalition distributed 1,000 music download cards with hotline numbers for teens to call for help. She said public service announcements speaking to teens and parents about the issue were played on local radio stations including Power 93. Power also created a blog on their website. Ms. Bones stated the committee also created 250 teen dating violence CD toolkits. The toolkits were distributed to the school districts, and throughout the community upon request. She stated that a limited number are still available if council members would like to receive one. A new toolkit will be created next year. Ms. Bones thanked Verizon Wireless for sponsoring the music download cards for the Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week activities.

Kendra Leiby, AZCADV, provided the legislative update. She began by speaking on the budget crisis of working through a combined deficit of \$3.5 billion for FY08 and FY09. She said some resolutions have been made with line items in the FY08 budget being secured. Ms. Leiby shared that concerns are now focused on the FY09 budget. She handed out a position paper containing talking points for members to use when discussing domestic violence issues with legislators. She also handed out the Coalition's legislative priorities for 2008. She said on Senate Bill (SB) 1432 Child Custody, Sen. Farnsworth wants to strike "clear and convincing evidence" and replace with "preponderance of evidence". Although this is not ideal, the Coalition is willing to make this compromise so the bill can move forward. House Bill (HB) 2374 Dating Relationships didn't receive a hearing. The Coalition will continue working on this issue and will pursue it again next year. She stated the Coalition is keeping the Strangulation bill upfront through ongoing dialogue. Ms. Leiby said SB 1028 prohibiting gifts for public purposes from cities doesn't appear to be moving. She said this bill could impact many different programs. The Association of Food Banks

had gathered information to stop this bill. She spoke about SB 1476 Safe Communities Bill which would give offenders credit toward time off their probation. Ms. Leiby said this bill is modeled after a pilot program in New York. She said some individuals would not have the opportunity to participate. The Coalition would like offenders of child abuse, domestic violence and animal abuse not to be considered. She said SB 1476 is not moving but might before the end of the legislative session.

Vice Chair Humphrey stated the importance of continuing dialogue around domestic violence issues, especially with the current budget environment. He noted the recent incident of the 16 year old girl who was killed by her boyfriend. He said this case was not considered domestic violence because their relationship didn't fit within the parameters of Arizona's definition of domestic violence. He said it is important to be aware of bills being passed in the legislature. Ms. Leiby added the mother of the victim contacted the Coalition to help with HB 2374 and offered to testify.

Ms. Del-Colle thanked the Coalition for their weekly legislative updates. She said the Family Advocacy Center staff has found them to very helpful.

8. 2008 Regional Conference on Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who reported on the upcoming conference promoting coordination of housing and human services transportation. Ms. St. Peter began by stating the conference will focus on housing and transportation, main concerns from the MAG Human Services Transportation Plan regarding older adults, disabled and low income populations. She said the MAG Human Services Transportation Plan was completed in 2006 with an update in 2008. During this process, MAG discovered that many agencies did not coordinate with one another and many stated they would not consider coordinating with others. Funding was identified as another barrier.

Ms. St. Peter stated the MAG Regional Conference on Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination came about as an opportunity to work on breaking down the barriers for coordination. She commented MAG had held a Human Services Summit in 2007 with housing and transportation as a workshop and many attendees had requested more time on the topic. Ms. St. Peter said the conference will have many state and national speakers covering topics such as transportation, universal housing design, and affordable housing. She said there will be 14 workshops held throughout the day with a plenary luncheon discussion moderated by Cary Pfeffer from ClearComm Consulting. Ms. St. Peter invited council members to attend. She said the outcome is to take away some new skills to better coordinate housing and transportation throughout the region.

9. Youth Empowerment Project Update

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, to provide an update on Youth Empowerment Project activities. Ms. Tenney began by saying a recognition event was held to announce the winners of the public service announcement (PSA)

Competition. The purpose of the competition was to put teen dating violence resources and information directly into the hands of teens. The project includes the Web of Friends Web site with links to providers and other resources. She said the recognition event took place March 5, 2008 at the Suns-Diamondback Education Academy. Mayor Manross of Scottsdale, Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, emceed the event. She was joined by James Rivas of MEGA 104.3 and two young adults who gave powerful testimonials about their own experiences with dating violence. Ms. Tenney said American Express donated gift cards for the winners in the radio ad and electronic invitation categories. Raffle prizes were donated by the Phoenix Suns and Waterbird Studio.

Ms. Tenney presented the winning entries in both the radio ad and electronic invite categories. The Committee reviewed the entries and offered feedback. Ms. Tenney explained that the best elements from each of the top three entries would be included in the final production design. She said the final product will be distributed to mainstream radio stations and throughout the community.

The committee offered the follow comments on the radio ads. Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center, commented the second place entry was every emotional. She noted that the ending statement “then you’ve got nothing” could be interpreted to place pressure on the girl to get out of the relationship. Kristin Scharlau, City of Tempe, said the second place consisted of more peer to peer language. Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services, agreed the second place dialogue was more relatable to teens. Dr. Casaletto noted the first and second place winners were done very well. She commented the third place winners’ dialogue was more high level than the average high school student. Councilmember Trinity Donovan, City of Chandler, commented on the need to have the WebofFriends.com in the radio ads. Jennifer Dalton, City of Phoenix Prosecutor’s Office, said the sound of the slap on the second place entry was very effective in grabbing the audience’s attention. Ms. Bones said emotional abuse is more common than physical abuse, and the second place ad distracts from this message by having the slap sound. Ms. Ramella said the second place entry also included the jealousy theme, which is important. She commented the language might be more effective if it was more subtle. Ms. Lynch commented mental abuse is subtle. She stated it is critical to cover mental and verbal abuse because physical violence usually doesn’t show up in a relationship right away.

Councilmember Donovan inquired on the process and if only the first place will be produced. Ms. Tenney stated the first place will be professionally produced and will incorporate elements from the second and third place winners to build a stronger message. Dr. Casaletto stated the second place clearly demonstrated power and control which should be included in the final product. Ms. Bones stated the elements of jealousy and name calling showed a control factor and is also important. Ms. Hobbs stated on the first place ad taking out the phrase, “you’re hurting me” could help to focus on mental abuse versus physical abuse.

The committee offered the following comments for the e-invite. Ms. Lynch commented the first place message was easier to follow then the second and third

place winners. Councilmember Donovan asked how the final product will be presented. Ms. Tenney said the e-invite would be sent via email and would open much like an on-line greeting card. Ms. St. Peter said another option would be to display it as a page that a person clicks on a link to another web site. Ms. Youngblood commented the first place was the most complete in its message. Ms. Scharlau suggested including a voice over to further explain mental and verbal abuse in relationships since the teens seem to focus on physical abuse. She also suggested including an example of controlling behavior with teens.

Ms. Bones said the teens seem to be focused on more of the physical behavior and agreed with redirecting people to another website for more information. Ms. Del-Colle commented on keeping in mind the gender equality of abuse. Ms. Tenney thanked all the judges and other committee members for helping to promote the competition. She said feedback from the Council and focus groups with teens will be incorporated into the final product, which will be completed in June.

10. Announcements

Ms. Lynch announced the West Valley Human Services Alliance summit on homelessness will take place on April 28, 2008. Keynote speakers will include City Manager Terry Ellis, City of Peoria.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices.